

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electrical connector mounted on a printed circuit board (PCB), the electrical connector comprising:

an insulative housing defining a plurality of channels;

a plurality of contacts partially received in the housing; and

a spacer engaged with the housing, the spacer comprising a base and defining a plurality of passageways through the base; ~~wherein~~

wherein the base of the spacer defines two fastening arms depending from the opposite sides thereof, and each of the fastening arms comprises a hook at a distal end thereof;

wherein the housing defines two fastening slots corresponding to the fastening arms of the spacer, and the housing further defines two hooking slots communicating with the fastening slots for receiving the hooks of the fastening arms;

wherein each of the contacts extends from the housing via a corresponding channel and electrically connects to the PCB through a corresponding passageway of the spacer.

Claim 2 (original): The electrical connector as described in claim 1, wherein the spacer defines a plurality of island platforms respectively defining the passageways therethrough.

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (original): The electrical connector as described in claim 1, wherein the base further comprises a pair of guiding blocks extending from the opposite sides thereof, and the housing further defines a pair of guiding slots corresponding to the guiding blocks of the spacer.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): The electrical connector as described in claim 7, wherein the ~~housing further defines a pair of hooking slots~~ slot is perpendicularly perpendicular communicating with to the fastening slots slot and receiving the hooks of the fastening arms.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An electrical connector comprising:

an insulative housing defining a plurality of channels;

a plurality of contacts received in the corresponding channels, respectively, each of said contacts defining a tail portion in a rear portion of the housing;

a plurality of dividers formed in the rear portion of the housing to isolate the tail portion of each of said contacts;

a spacer attached to the housing and defining a plurality of island platforms extending from a ~~commonly~~ common surface thereof, each of the island platforms forming a passageway therethrough, the tail portion of the contacts extending through the corresponding platforms, respectively;

wherein a plurality of intertwined troughs are formed among said island platforms.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The connector as described in claim 9, wherein a ~~plurality of intertwined troughs are formed among said island platforms,~~ and some of said troughs are vertically aligned with the corresponding dividers, respectively.

Claim 11 (new): The connector as described in claim 9, wherein the spacer defines two fastening arms depending from the opposite sides thereof, and each of the fastening arms comprises a hook at a distal end thereof;

Claim 12 (new): The connector as described in claim 11, wherein the housing defines two fastening slots corresponding to the fastening arms of the spacer, and the housing further defines two hooking slots communicating with the fastening slots for receiving the hooks of the fastening arms.